## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AUSTIN DIVISION

# PLAINTIFF'S AMENDED OPPOSED MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Don Holland, individually and on behalf all others similarly situated, moves this Honorable Court for leave to file the First Amended Class Action Complaint, pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 15. In support thereof, pursuant to the Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff would show this Honorable Court as follows:

### **LOCAL RULE CV-7 COMPLIANCE**

1. Pursuant to Local Rule CV-7, Plaintiff conferred in good faith with counsel for each Defendant that made an appearance. Counsel for Danielle Strobel and counsel for Logan Paul have stated their clients are opposed. Counsel for Logan Paul did not agree. Counsel for Jeffrey Levin and Ophir Bentov a/k/a Ben Roth were made aware of Plaintiff's Amended Motion and did not respond with a decision before the filing of this Amended Motion, but there is no prejudice because Defendants Strobel and Paul are opposed.

#### PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

- 2. On February 2, 2023, Plaintiff filed his action against Defendants CryptoZoo, Inc., Logan Paul, Danielle Strobel, Jeffrey Levin, Eduardo Ibanez, Jake Greenbaum, and Ophir Bentov. *See* Dkt 1. Defendants Logan Paul, Danielle Strobel, Jeffrey Levin, and Ophir Bentov have made appearances and will be referred to collectively as the "Defendants" below.
- 3. On May 19, 2023, Defendants filed motions to dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint on jurisdictional bases. Dkts. 22, 23. Plaintiff responded on June 2, 2023 (see Dkts. 32, 33), to which Defendants replied on June 9, 2023. Dkts. 35, 36.
- 4. Before Defendants' motions to dismiss were heard by the Court, the parties conferred and agreed to mediate before filing a motion to stay the case while the mediation proceeded. *See* Dkt. 38.
- 5. On October 4, 2023 the Parties engaged in a mediation with Randy Wulff, Esq. Though the parties negotiated for months, they were unable to agree on a resolution. The Parties notified the Court of the resolution of the mediation. *See* Dkt 39.
- 6. On November 15, 2023, Defendant Paul withdrew his name from his motion to dismiss and stated he would file an answer to the Complaint within 45 days. *See* Dkt. 40.
- 7. On December 18, 2023, Plaintiff's counsel informed Paul's counsel they would be filing a motion for leave to file an amended complaint and requested dates for a conference. Paul's counsel responded to this request on December 22, saying the call should happen after the holidays, to which Plaintiff's counsel almost immediately requested January 4, 2024. On December 29, Paul's counsel agreed to confer on January 4.
- 8. On December 20, 2023, Defendant Paul filed an unopposed motion to extend his answer deadline until January 9, 2024, which the Court granted. Dkt. 54.

- 9. On January 3, 2024, Paul's counsel requested the conference be moved to the next week and Plaintiff's counsel responded they planned to file an amended complaint this week.
- 10. On January 4, 2024, without notifying Plaintiff's counsel, Defendant Paul filed his Answer, Affirmative Defenses, and Crossclaims. Dkt. 55.
- 11. On January 5, 2024, Plaintiff filed a Motion for Leave [Dkt. 59] to file an amended complaint, which added additional people harmed by Defendants' actions as plaintiffs and additional claims against Defendants.
- 12. In that time, additional people who were harmed by Defendants' actions have requested to be added as plaintiffs, necessitating this Amended Motion to add them to the proposed complaint. Plaintiff's counsel has alerted Defense counsel of the additional plaintiffs and confirmed that was the only change made to the First Amended Class Action Complaint attached as Exhibit A.

#### **ARGUMENT**

- 13. Plaintiff requests leave to amend the complaint as more than 21 days have passed since this case was filed. Plaintiff seeks leave to amend to add alternative claims and name all additional plaintiffs, excluding potential future Class members (as defined in Exhibit A at  $\P$  10), in this action.
- 14. Rule 15(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that leave to amend pleadings "shall be freely given when justice so requires." FED. R. CIV. P. 15(a)(2); *Price v. Pinnacle Brands*, Inc., 138 F.3d 602, 607-08 (5th Cir. 1998). The court should grant leave to file an amended pleading unless the opposing party can show prejudice, bad faith, or undue delay. *Foman v. Davis*, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962).
  - 15. Here, the Court should allow Plaintiff's proposed amended pleading—*Plaintiffs'*

First Amended Class Action Complaint, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as "Exhibit A"—because it is appropriate and necessary. See Gamma-10 Plastics, Inc. v. Am. President Lines, Ltd., 32 F.3d 1244, 1255-56 (8th Cir. 1994). Further, as the stay in the case recently ended and Plaintiffs' counsel alerted Defendants of their plan to amend during the stay, Plaintiff is not prejudicing Defendants, there is no bad faith involved, and any delay is minimal and in response to Defendant Paul's requests to delay conferring.

16. If leave is granted, Plaintiffs will submit the co-lead declarations required under 15 U.S.C. 78u-4(a)(2).

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff prays the Court grant Plaintiff's Amended Opposed Motion for Leave to File Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint attached as Exhibit A. Plaintiff also asks for all other and further relief to which he may be justly entitled, at law or in equity.

### Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jarrett L. Ellzev

### **ELLZEY & ASSOCIATES, PLLC**

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**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS** 

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 5(d). I hereby certify that on January 15, 2024 the foregoing was electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will provide notice to all counsel of record. I further certify that the foregoing has been served the foregoing document on all counsel of record in a manner authorized by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5(b)(2).

<u>/s/ Jarrett L. Ellzey</u> Jarrett L. Ellzey